

LESSON 15

SUCCESS IN YATHRIB (MADINAH)

Tenth, Eleventh and Twelfth Years of Prophethood

The event of *Mi'raj* strengthened the faith of the Muslims. The Quran told them that the time for the fulfillment of Allah's promises was very near. The faith and confidence of Muslims irritated the *Kuffar*. All their efforts to stop the progress of Islam had failed. Now they were seriously considering killing Rasulullah (S).

The risk of the life of Rasulullah (S) was increasing. He was not afraid at all. He knew Allah had appointed him to complete His mission. He must do what Allah wanted him to do. His failure at Makkah and Ta'if did not discourage Rasulullah (S). He made renewed efforts in another direction.

It was the habit of Rasulullah (S) to go to assemblies and fairs to invite people to Islam. The Arabs gathered in Makkah each year for a pilgrimage. A group of six pilgrims from Yathrib (the city now known as Madinah) came for pilgrimage. They belonged to the important tribe of Khazraj.

The people of Khazraj had known about a coming prophet. Many Jewish tribes lived in Yathrib. They followed Prophet Musa (A) and read *Tawrat* (Torah), the book revealed to Prophet Musa (A) by Allah. This book told them about a prophet who would come and bring peace to mankind. The people of Yathrib had learned from the Jews about the coming prophet for whom the Jews were eagerly waiting.

At the time of pilgrimage, Prophet Muhammad (S) met the people of Khazraj and invited them to Islam. Unlike the people of Makkah and Ta'if, the people of Yathrib listened to Rasulullah (S) with respect. The teachings of the Quran and sincerity of Rasulullah (S) convinced them that he was the prophet foretold in the *Tawrat*. "If Muhammad was a true prophet," they thought, "then we should be the first to accept him before the Jews recognised him."

Rasulullah (S) read them some portions of the Quran. They were convinced that Muhammad (S) was a true prophet. The Quran was divine revelation, and Islam was a true religion. All of them said, "*La ilaha illa Allah Muhammadun Rasulullah*" and became Muslims.

They told Rasulullah (S), "Our people are most divided. Maybe Allah will unite them through you." This was the beginning of a big success. Allah's promises on the night of *Miraj* began to be fulfilled.

These people went back to Yathrib and told their brothers about the pious Prophet (S) and his pure religion, Islam. Many more people became interested. People of Madinah saw that the lives of their brothers from Khazraj tribe had completely changed since they had accepted Islam. Now all their actions were different from their actions in earlier pagan life. The interest of the people of Madinah in learning more about Islam and knowing more about the Prophet (S) increased.

The next year, twelve pilgrims came to Makkah especially to meet Rasulullah (S). They met the Prophet (S) and listened to the Quran. They also became Muslims. Rasulullah (S) took *Bai'ah* (formal oath or pledge) from them. He asked them to promise:

To worship only one God;
not to steal,
not to commit adultery,
not to kill their children,
not to make false allegation
against others,
and to faithfully follow the
teachings of Islam.

This *Bai'ah* is called the first pledge of 'Aqaba. 'Aqaba is a mount near Makkah.

This time Rasulullah (S) sent two *Sahabah*, Mus'ab bin 'Uma: and 'Abdullah bin Umri Maktum to Yathrib with them. These companions started teaching Islam to the people of Yathrib. More and more people listened and became interested in Islam. The message of Islam reached everyone in Madinah. The next year, seventy-two Muslims, including two women, came for pilgrimage and to meet Rasulullah (S). These Muslims were so happy to see Rasulullah (S) they told him, "O' Rasulullah, we have come to listen to you and obey you. We believe in you and shall always stand by you."

Rasulullah (S) was very happy. He taught them what Islam means. He recited some of the Quran to them. These people became even more convinced of the truth of Muhammad's prophethood. They made a promise to always believe in Islam and to stand by the Prophet (S) and defend him.

Rasulullah (S) was pleased by this devotion and faith. He in return promised them to stand by them always, in life as well as in death. The people of Yathrib wanted a formal *Bai'ah*. As Rasulullah(S) was about to invite them for *Bai'ah*, Abbas bin 'Ubadah asked the people, "Do you know what *Bai'ah* means?" He paused a little, then continued, "It is a declaration of war with both the Arabs and non-Arabs."

All the members of the delegation replied, "Yes, we know it indeed. We shall keep our pledge even at the cost of our lives."

All the members of the Yathrib delegation stretched their hands for *Bai'ah* and promised,

We shall obey Rasulullah
in plenty and scarcity,
in ease and difficulties,
in joy and sorrow.
We will serve the cause of Allah
under all situations.

Rasulullah (S) said,

My blood is your blood.
I am of you, you are of me.

Rasulullah (S) called the people of Yathrib *Ansar*, the helpers to the cause of Allah. Being the *Sahabah* of Allah's last prophet made the people of Yathrib very happy and filled their hearts with joy. They wished Rasulullah (S) to live with them. They now wanted an opportunity to serve Rasulullah (S) and Islam. All of them knew the dangers to their lives if Muhammad (S) and the Muslims went to live with them. But faith had entered their hearts. Risking their lives for Islam didn't appear dangerous to them, but very attractive.

They invited Rasulullah (S) and other persecuted Muslim brothers to migrate to Yathrib. They promised to help them. "Even if all the Arabs and non-Arabs unite against us," they said, "we shall support Rasulullah and be faithful to the cause of Allah."

Rasulullah (S) knew and respected their sincerity and pure faith. He honored them and called them *Ansar* (singular, *Ansari*), the helpers of Allah. The people of Yathrib were greatly delighted by this title. People of Yathrib were known by this name. They, in fact, showed in the future how correct this honor was.

Rasulullah (S) was not yet asked by Allah to migrate. He stayed in Makkah but he asked Muslims to migrate to Yathrib.

Muslims slowly started migrating to Yathrib, where they were warmly received. Through *Tabligh* (preaching) Islam started spreading fast in Madinah.

Points of review:

1. At 'Aqaba, delegations from Yathrib took *Bai'ah* of obedience to Rasulullah (S).
2. The message of Islam was accepted by many people of Yathrib.
3. Rasulullah (S) called the Muslims of Yathrib *Ansar*.

Words to remember:

Allegation, *Ansar*, *Ansari*, *Bai'ah*, *Tabligh*

Important names

Abbas bin 'Ubadah, 'Abdullah bin Umme Maktum, 'Aqaba, Khazraj, Mus'ab bin 'Umayr.

Quranic Study

1. Read *al-Anfal* 62-63, *Ali Imran* 3:102-105. See How Allah united the hearts of a divided people through faith.

